9: Forster T-5 (1774) 1777
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

have been glad to have aſcertained this circumſtance, but the natives always denied us admittance into theſe places. 000 1774. March.

A plantation of ſugar-canes and one of bananas adjoined to the houſe we had viſited, and both were in excellent order, conſidering the ſtony quality of the ground. The bananas were all growing in holes one foot deep, which we ſuppoſed to be contrived for collecting the rain, and preſerving it for a longer time about the plant. The ſugar-canes were about nine or ten feet high, even in this parched country, and contained a very ſweet juice, which the inhabitants preſented to us very frequently, and particularly whenever we aſked for ſomething to drink. We concluded from thence that they had no water on the iſland; but coming back to the landing-place we met captain Cook, whom the natives had conducted to a well very cloſe to the ſea, which was cut deep into the rock, but full of impurities. When our people had cleared it, they found the water in it rather brackiſh, but the natives drank of it with much ſeeming ſatisfaction. 175X 241 [272] 175X 312

Captain Cook had not been very fortunate in trading with the people. They ſeemed indeed to be ſo deſtitute as to have no proviſions to ſpare. A few matted baſkets full of ſweet potatoes, ſome ſugar-canes, bunches of bananas, and two or three ſmall fowls ready dreſſed, were the whole purchaſe which he had made for a few iron tools, and ſome Taheitee cloth. He had preſented the people with 175X 433